



U.S Department of Transportation  
Office of Public Affairs  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590  
[www.transportation.gov/briefingroom](http://www.transportation.gov/briefingroom)

## News

---

PHMSA 09-15  
Monday, September 28, 2015  
Contact: Artealia Gilliard  
Tel.: 202-366-4831

### **DOT Announces \$5.9 Million in First Responder Grants to Help Protect Communities From Flammable Liquids by Rail Incidents**

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) today announced grants totaling \$5.9 million to provide hazardous materials training for volunteer or remote emergency responders. The Assistance for Local Emergency Response Training (ALERT) grants will go to three non-profit organizations who will provide training for incidents involving shipments of crude oil, ethanol and other flammable liquids by rail.

The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2015 (P.L. 113-235) allowed PHMSA to use money recovered from prior year Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grants to fund the ALERT grants.

“Safety is our top priority and the ALERT grants will help first responders, especially volunteer firefighters in rural or remote parts of the country, prepare for and respond to incidents involving flammable liquids,” said U.S. Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “It’s critical that first responders have the information and training they need to respond to these types of incidents, and is one of more than a dozen actions the Department has taken in recent months to strengthen the safe transportation of crude oil, ethanol and other flammable liquids by rail.”

Grants from PHMSA are funded by annual user registration fees paid by shippers and carriers of certain hazardous materials in commerce. During grant period 2013-14, HMEP grants funded more than 91,000 first responders in initial or refresher hazardous materials response training, over 1,300 new or revised hazardous materials emergency response plans, and over 950 hazardous materials exercises.

“Nearly 25,000 additional firefighters, police and other first responders are expected to benefit from this one-year realignment of hazmat training grants,” said PHMSA Administrator Marie Therese Dominguez.

**Awardee Funding Distribution  
ALERT Grants**

<b>Nonprofit Grantees</b>	<b>Total Awarded</b>
1. University of Findlay (All Hazards Training Center), Findlay, OH	\$611,491
2. International Association of Fire Chiefs, Fairfax, VA	\$2,654,235
3. Center for Rural Development, Somerset, KY	\$2,675,470
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,941,196</b>

**University of Findlay (UF)**

UF will offer an eight-hour course titled, Rail HazMat Response Operations Level, which is designed to meet the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) 472 standard for competence of operations level first responders to hazardous materials incidents with a focus on hydrocarbons such as crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids transported by rail. The training will include both classroom lecture and hands-on activities.

**International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)**

The IAFC will partner with its Volunteer Combination Officers Section of the IAFC, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the National Volunteer Fire Council, National Association of State Fire Marshals, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, and the Renewable Fuels Association to provide a unique, cost-effective training enterprise approach, titled Hazardous Materials Emergency Planning, Training and Response, over a two-year performance period, to address planning and response needs of the rural and remote fire service in dealing with flammable liquids emergency incidents.

**The Center For Rural Development (The Center)**

The Center will develop and deliver two training courses focused on preparing emergency responders, specifically, volunteer and remote area responders, for planning and safely responding to crude oil, ethanol, and other flammable liquids transported by rail incidents. Participants will be introduced to the chemical and physical properties of the flammable liquids transported by rail as well as to the hazards released during an incident. The Center will use the experience of the Security and Emergency Response Training Center, located at the Transportation Technology Center in Pueblo, Colorado, as the sub-grantee to develop and deliver the training courses.

*The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration develops and enforces regulations for the safe, reliable, and environmentally sound operation of the nation's 2.6 million mile pipeline transportation system and the nearly 1 million daily shipments of hazardous materials by land, sea, and air. Please visit <http://phmsa.dot.gov> or [https://twitter.com/PHMSA\\_DOT](https://twitter.com/PHMSA_DOT) for more information.*

# # #